



# SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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## SGT. SCOTTY HASTON GRADUATES FROM PRESTIGIOUS FORENSICS ACADEMY

Salem Police Sergeant Gregory “Scotty” Haston has graduated from the 87<sup>th</sup> session of the Virginia Forensic Science Academy in Richmond. The academy, which was established in 1974, provides advanced training to qualified crime scene search officers across the state. During the intense nine week program, law enforcement personnel learn to properly recognize, document, collect, and preserve items of physical evidence found at crime scenes for laboratory examination.

“We are very proud of Scotty for this accomplishment,” says Tim Guthrie, Salem Police Chief. “I know being away from his family and his peers at the P.D. for this amount of time was difficult, but I also know the tremendous amount of knowledge he has gained during this time will greatly benefit the citizens of Salem.”

Haston and his fellow students became familiar with the capabilities of the modern forensic laboratory in the examination of the broad spectrum of materials which can be collected as evidence in criminal cases. The course work provides the officers with the necessary background information and practical application techniques needed to maximize the utilization of forensic science when it comes to the apprehension and prosecution of criminals in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The prestigious Academy normally holds just two sessions per year which limits the number of students to 12, in order to maximize learning and hands-on experiences. Haston completed his training and graduated with 11 other officers on April 10. He will officially be assigned to the Salem Forensic Division on April 26 and assume the supervisory role in the division.

Currently, three other officers at the Salem Police Department are graduates of the Forensic Academy - Lieutenant Todd Clayton (63<sup>rd</sup> session), Senior Police Officer Robert S. Akers (76<sup>th</sup> session) and Sgt. Derek Weeks (81<sup>st</sup> Session).

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